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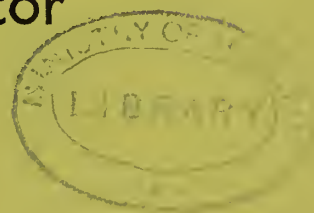
GREAT HARWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector



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FOR THE YEAR

1955

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH AND SANITARY ADMINISTRATION
of the
DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR
1955

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R. C. WEBSTER
Medical Officer of Health

G. WALMSLEY
Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1955 - 1956

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CHAIRMAN

Councillor F. AINSWORTH, J.P. C.C.,

VICE - CHAIRMAN

Councillor T. MELLING.

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COMMITTEE

Councillors:-

G. A. Monckman,

J. Dunn,

R. L. Riding,

W. Slyn,

E. Whalley,

H. Dunkinson,

J. Wyatt,

L. B. Greenwood,

H. Doswell, J.P.

J. Hindle (Deceased)

J T. Smith,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Administrative Staff

Medical Officer of Health

-and-

Divisional Medical Officer of Health (No. 5. Division)

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Sanitary Inspector

-and-

Cleansing Superintendent

G. WALMSLEY, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO GREAT HARWOOD

<u>Divisional Health Committee</u>	Office at 19 St. James Street, Accrington. Telephone Accrington 4223.
<u>Divisional Medical Officer</u>	Dr. R.C. Webster
<u>Ante-Natal Clinics</u>	Mercer Hall, Great Harwood. Alternate Thursday mornings.
<u>County Clinic</u>	High Street, Rishton. First and Third Wednesday each month.
<u>Child Welfare Clinic</u>	Mercer Hall, Great Harwood. All day every Wednesday. Immunisation and U.V.R. by appointment.
<u>Health Visitor</u>	Miss S.V. Hitchen, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
<u>District Nurses</u>	Miss Oldale, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse Miss Halliwell, S.R.N.
<u>Midwife</u>	Mrs. Izatt, S.C.M., S.R.N.

For the following services:-

Day Nurseries, Domestic Helps, Mental Health Service,
Accommodation for the elderly (not sick) persons,

enquiries should be made at the Divisional Health Office,
19 St. James Street, Accrington.

Divisional Education Executive

Divisional Medical Officer,
Dr. R.C. Webster.

School medical routine and special examinations.

Minor ailment clinic every Friday morning.

Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment) at High
Street, Rishton.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Great Harwood.

The number of infant deaths was again higher than we would wish to see it, but five out of these six deaths were in the first few days of life, and were due to conditions over which we have, as yet, but little control. The other death was due to a quite exceptional cause.

The birth rate continues to grow. The death rate is somewhat above that for the country as a whole. These figures are, of course, linked - a low birth rate must necessarily lead to a higher proportion of old people in the population and, therefore, to a higher death rate. No conclusions can be drawn from such figures in themselves as to the health conditions of the District.

The graph incorporated in the Report shows that the number of people removed by nature from the District continues to exceed the number added by nature. Thus the population is, so far as these facts are concerned, tending to decline.

Looking at the causes of death we see that the overwhelming majority of these are due to conditions associated with the later ages of life and fundamentally represent the wearing out of the human organism.

I am happy to say that the general position as regards water supplies has continued to be satisfactory throughout the year, although in the case of one or two outlying dwellings the unusually dry weather of the summer has caused difficulties owing to the failure of springs.

During the year the only infectious disease which was very prevalent was measles. This disease appears to be returning to its old form of a two year cycle. The apparent interruption of this cycle, which was noted in many areas in the years following the war, was very probably due to variations in birth rates, which would, of course, affect the number of children available to contract the disease in any particular area.

I wish to thank the Clerk; Mr. Walmsley and his staff; and other officials for their help throughout the year and I thank you Mr. Chairman and the Committee for your continued interest and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

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SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

GENERAL

Area in acres	2868
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955						3854
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£68763
Sum represented by a penny rate (Provisional)	..	..						£355
Population at 1951 Census	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10738
Estimated Population for 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10700

CHIEF INDUSTRIES IN THE AREA

The principal industries are cotton, rayon and chenille weaving, light engineering trades, footwear and mattress manufacturing, coated felts and food packing.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	66	57	123
Illegitimate	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>66</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>124</u>

Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude	11.6
Adjusted	13.0

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	1	7
Illegitimate	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>

Still Birth. rate per 1,000 total births .. 53

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	79	83	162

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population:

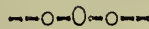
Crude	15.1
Adjusted	13.5

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population
(England and Wales) .. 11.7

INFANT MORTALITY

Infants under the age of one year:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6



N.B. Particulars of deaths of infants under one year:

	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
Male	6 months	Inflamation of Thymus Gland, leading of asphyxia
Female	1 day	Erythroblastosis
Male	2 days	Pneumonia
Male	4 days	Pneumonia
Female	6 hours	Atelectasis
Male	2 days	Prematurity

Comparative Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates
Analysis of Mortality and Maternal Mortality, in
the year 1955.

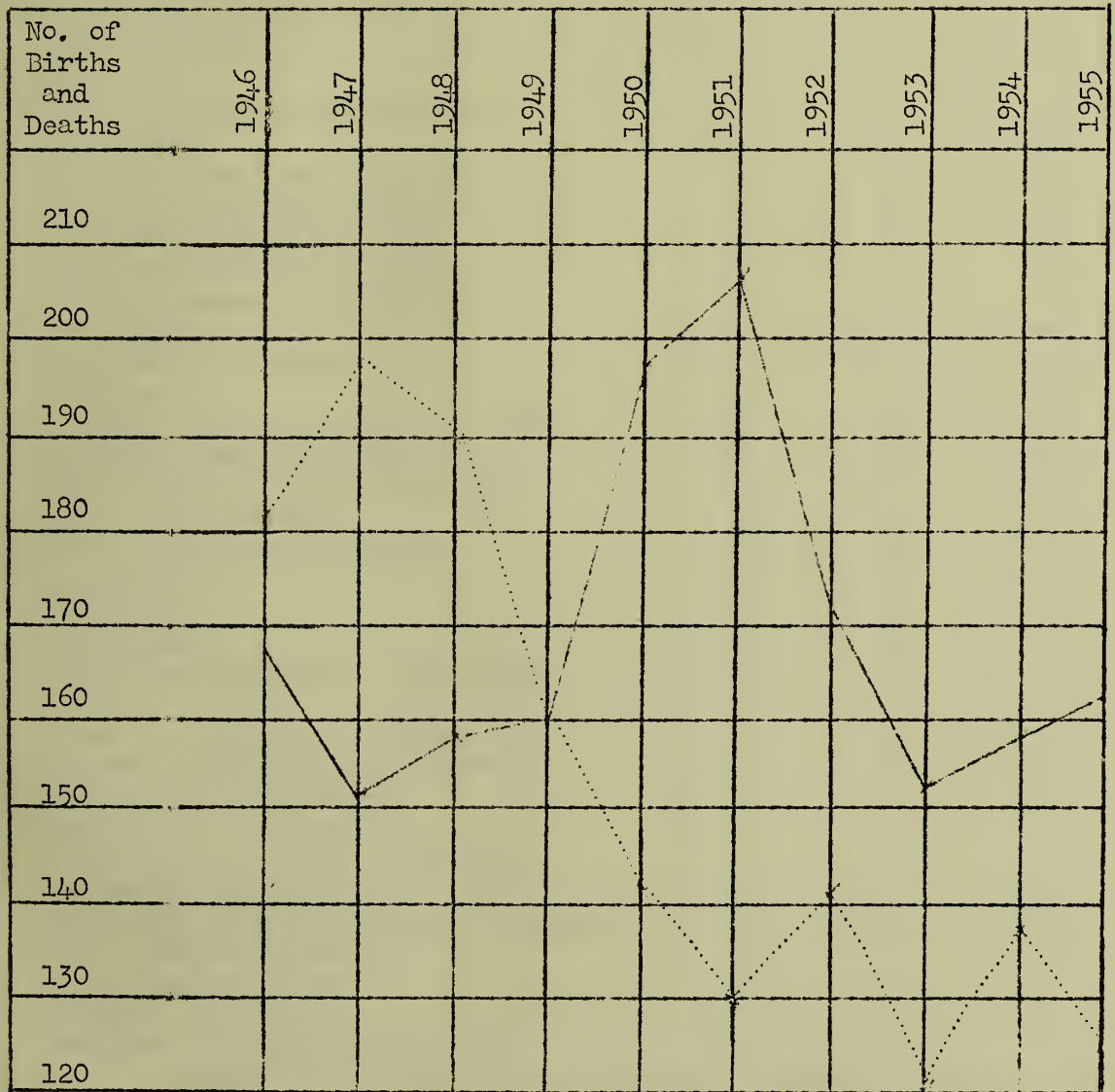
	England and Wales	GREAT HARWOOD
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population	
<u>BIRTHS</u>		
Live Births	15.0	13.0
Still Births	0.35	0.28
	23.1 (a)	53.0 (a)
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All causes	11.7	13.5
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0.13	0.19
Cancer (all forms)	2.06	3.55
Lung & Bronchus	0.39	0.56
Other cancer	1.67	1.99
Maternal Mortality	0.64	0.00
Infant Mortality	24.9 (b)	48.00 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	17.3 (b)	40.00 (b)
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.73	0.37
Whooping Cough	1.78	1.99
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.10	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	15.61	13.7
Pneumonia	0.63	0.65
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.14	0.00
Acute Encephalitis	0.00	0.00
Paralytic	0.06	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.29	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.27 (a)	0.00 (a)

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)

(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

ACTUAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

1946 - 1955



————— DEATHS

..... BIRTHS

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	2
Tuberculosis, others	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, Bronchus	6	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	13	20
Leukaemia, alukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	13	30
Coronary disease, angina	9	7	16
Hypertension with heart disease	3	5	8
Other heart diseases	9	13	22
Other circulatory diseases	2	2	4
Influenza	3	2	5
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	-	1
Other defined & ill defined diseases	8	10	18
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
	79	83	162

MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

MONTH	Actual Deaths in Great Harwood		Transfers				NET DEATHS FOR GT. HARWOOD			
			IN		OUT		Number		Total	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
January	7	7	3	3	-	-	10	10	20	22.5
February	3	6	2	-	-	-	5	6	11	12.3
March	1	5	5	5	-	-	6	10	16	17.9
April	3	17	6	1	-	-	9	18	27	30.2
May	4	2	2	1	-	-	6	3	9	10.0
June	2	3	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	5.6
July	5	2	2	5	-	-	7	7	14	15.7
August	6	4	2	2	-	-	8	6	14	15.7
September	4	2	2	1	-	-	6	3	9	10.0
October	2	3	3	-	-	-	5	3	8	8.9
November	5	5	4	1	-	-	9	6	15	16.8
December	6	6	3	2	3	-	6	8	14	15.7
Totals.	48	62	34	21	3	-	79	83	162	15.1 Av.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS
of the
HEALTH SERVICE

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LABORATORY FACILITIES

All Pathological and Bacteriological work for the Health Department is carried out at Blackburn Royal Infirmary. I wish to thank Dr. Spink and his staff for their assistance and advice during the year. Sputum examinations for Tuberculosis were carried out at the dispensary situated in Accrington.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is administered by the No. 5 Health Division of the Lancashire County Council. Two ambulances and one sitting case car are available for the district. The ambulance station is day-manned, and night-calls are dealt with by the ambulance station at Accrington.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help service is administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

A weekly clinic is held at the Mercer Hall for children under five years, and a pre-natal clinic is held once a fortnight. The duties are under the control of the Divisional Health Authority.

DAY NURSERIES

There is one day nursery in the town, administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

WATER SUPPLY

74 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all the samples being satisfactory.

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PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

of

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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TUBERCULOSIS

The administration is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, and co-operation is maintained through the Public Health Department. Disinfection of articles and premises is carried out when necessary.

Eight cases were removed from the register during the year, the causes of removal being as follows:-

Deaths	1
Recovered	5
Removed	2

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 & upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	8	4	-	-	1	-	-	-

Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1955 - 63

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		
<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
26	18	44	7	12	19

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified:-

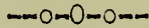
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Measles	147	Nil
Whooping Cough	22	Nil
Pneumonia	2	7
Scarlet Fever	4	Nil
Dysentery	1	Nil

DIPHTHERIA

No cases of diphtheria were reported during the year. The diphtheria immunisation administration is carried out by the Divisional Health Authority.

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GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



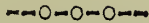
R E P O R T

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eighth annual report on the health and cleansing work carried out during 1955. The volume of work in the department continues to grow due to new and often difficult legislation. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 has proved to be unsatisfactory in arresting the decay in many low rented dwelling houses. This Act has proved to be very cumbersome and cannot be readily assimilated by owners and tenants.

The new Food Hygiene Regulations and the impending Clean Air Bill present many problems which will not be overcome easily or quickly.

A brief survey revealed that an estimated number of some 200 houses would probably have to be dealt with under slum clearance proposals. The term "slum clearance" is not a correct description, as the houses proposed to be demolished lack stability, or are of such an age as to render renovation impracticable.

Progress is being made on the conversion of pail closets, the number having been reduced from 36 to 11. Waste water closet conversions are being maintained at approximately 60 per year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Health Committee for their encouragement during the year and also to thank the officials and staff for their assistance.

Yours faithfully,

G. WALMSLEY.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

of FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of pigs is carried out at a private slaughterhouse, and the following table presents a report of the activities during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

Number killed	..	..	..	..	..	..	3664
Number inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	3664

All Diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	..	..	..	..	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	0.8

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcasses condemned	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	..	..	..	..	10
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	0.2

UN SOUND FOOD

Tinned Boiled Ham	..	..	..	..	..	9 lb.
Tinned Milk	..	..	..	..	..	8
Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	28
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	..	..	24
Tinned Fish	..	..	..	..	..	5
Smoked Haddock	..	..	..	..	..	28

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of farms	..	..	15
Ungraded Producers	..	..	3
"T.T." Producers	..	..	12

MILK SAMPLES

- 28 samples were taken for the following tests:-

	Methylene Blue Test		Tubercle Bacilli Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Pos.
"T.T."	8	-	8	-
Ungraded	4	2	6	-
	12	2	14	-

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS

Manufacturers (hot mix)	..	1
Manufacturers (cold mix)	..	Nil
Vendors (shops, etc.)	..	34
Hawkers	.. .. ..	1

WATER SUPPLYRaw Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations	37
Chemical Analyses	1

Treated Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations	74
Chemical Analyses	2

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The Lancashire County Council sampling officers took the following samples during the year, in addition to 43 samples of milk.

Cooking Fat	..	..	..	2
Tea	..	..	..	1
Meat Paste	..	..	..	2
Extract of malt with cod liver oil	..	..		1
Zinc ointment	..	..		2
Extract of malt	..	..		1
Semolina	..	..	..	2
Mustard Compound	..	..		1
Ground almonds	..	..		3
Beef sausages	..	..		1

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
1 Beef sausages	Contained 270 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor Interviewed
1 Ground Almonds	Acid value of oil 17. Sample also had sour taste and odour	Stock withdrawn from sale

STORAGE, SALE AND PREPARATION OF FOOD

Number of food premises, and type, at the end of the year:-

General Grocers	..	..	..	..	44
Greengrocers (including sale of fish)				..	16
Fishmonger	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers	..	..	..	..	14
Tripe	..	..	..	..	3
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	34
Fish and Chip	..	..	..	..	13
Ice Cream	35

Number of registered premises

Ice Cream	35
Meat Preparation, etc.	14

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H O U S I N G

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UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

1. (a)	Number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health and Housing Acts.	175
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	357
2. (a)	Number of houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	--
(b)	Number of houses, excluding 3 (a) above found not in all respects fit for human habitation	36
	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	56

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9,10, and 16, of the Housing Act. 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which after service of formal notices were rendered fit:	
a.	By owners	6
b.	By Local Authority in default of owners	--
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	54
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
a.	By owners	9
b.	By Local Authority in default of owners	--

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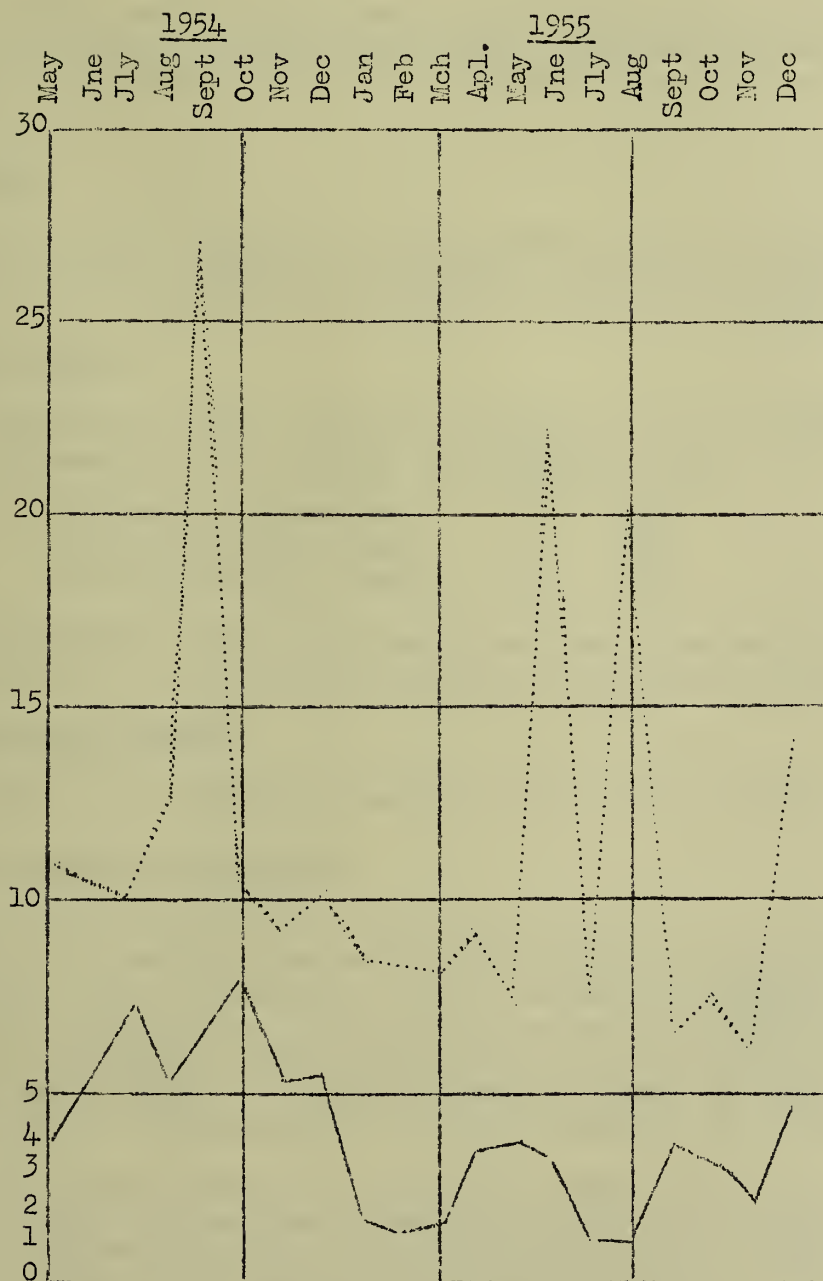
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

of the

DISTRICT

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ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 1954-5



Rainfall in inches —————

Insoluble matter tons per sq. mile.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

66 waste water closets and 5 pail closets were converted during the year. There are 1,906 waste water closets in the district. 11 pail closets are situated on the outskirts of the town and are emptied weekly.

FACTORIES

There are 77 factories on the register, and 76 visits were made during the year. Sanitary accommodation called for the most attention, and informal action only was required to remedy the defects.

RODENT CONTROL

A part-time rodent operator is employed, and the following details show the amount of work carried out during the year.

Properties inspected ..	..	133
Rat infestation found .	..	56
Mice infestation found	..	26

In addition, tips, river banks, etc., were treated for rat infestation, and a full sewer maintenance treatment was undertaken.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no authorised camping sites in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out in the district in addition to a daily collection of trade refuse from greengrocers etc. Two drivers, eight loaders and a tip attendant are engaged in this work. The refuse vehicles are 9 cubic yard side loaders fitted with petrol engines, the vehicles being quite suitable for the restricted width of many back streets. A 500 gallon gulley emptier is used for gulley cleansing, the average number of gullies cleansed per day being 96.

The estimated number of dustbins is 4200 and the average number of bins emptied per man per 8 hour day is 140. Since 1948, approximately 310 new houses have been constructed and the "carry" from bin site to refuse vehicle has increased thus tending to slow down the rate of collection as compared with terraced dwellings.

Although a municipal bin provision scheme is not in operation progress has been made in standardizing the dustbins in the town. Only $2\frac{1}{2}$ c.ft. B.S.S. bins are supplied, this bin being adequate for a weekly collection if properly used. The imposition of purchase tax on bins has unfortunately made it more difficult for bin replacement, the cost of the bins being over 40/- each.

Refuse disposal is carried out by means of controlled tipping and although the present tip is adequate for a number of years, the site presents difficulties. The tip is bounded by the Hyndburn and Norden brooks which are situated 80 feet below the completed tip surface. New access roads and "lifts" have to be made frequently to enable the tip to be formed to a proper level.

Street cleansing is carried out by two manual sweepers, reinforced by "gang" sweeping when refuse collection is finished. The town centre and main roads are swept on Sunday morning. Street cleansing is often neglected when men are off due to sickness as the sweepers are then required to assist in refuse collection.

During the summer months it is not possible to sweep many of the front and back streets due to the setts being overgrown with grass and weeds. Pressure spraying with a sodium chlorate base liquid weed killer is to be tried and if successful it may be advantageous to carry out this process twice yearly.

A record tonnage of waste paper was collected during the year and it is hoped that the salvage position will remain steady for a number of years.

SALVAGE.

YEAR	Tons. cwt. qrs.			£ s. d.			Av'ge ton pe month <u>tons. cwt.</u>	
1955	151	12	3	1212	12	-	12	12
1954	132	14	2	828	2	10	11	1
1953	109	3	1	599	-	-	9	1
1952	98	9	3	980	16	7	8	4
1951	137	1	3	2,023	-	-	11	8

Other Scrap

£76 3s. 2d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACT

HOUSING ACT

Inspections	49
Revisits	92

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Inspections	126
Revisits	90
Overcrowding	--
Verminous Premises	1

GENERAL

Accumulations.	35
Drainage	144
Defective bins	29
Rats and Mice	30
Refuse collection and disposal	20
Salvage	20
Schools	16
Shops	59
Smoke observations	12
Miscellaneous	127

FACTORIES

Inspections	76
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries	11
Disinfections	11

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses	23
Butchers	27
Dairies	5
Fish Fryers	18
Farms	20
Ice Cream	3
Market Stalls	12
Cafes	5
Unsound Food	15

CLEANSING SERVICE

Table showing costs for the year ending 31st March, 1955

Item	Particulars	Refuse collection inc:Night soil removal.	Refuse Disposal	Salvage	Street Cleansing inc:Gully cleaning, Street sweeping - District.
A.	Gross Expenditure	£3,532	£1,638	£865	£817
B.	Gross Income.	£103	£1,294	£1294	--
C.	Net Cost.	£429	£344	£429	£817
D.	Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises.	£357	£ 86	--	--
E.	Net cost per 1,000 population	£320	£ 32	--	--
F.	Net cost; equivalent rate in the £.	17.5d.	1.7d.	--	4.2d.
G.	Percentage of F to total rates in the £ -23/4d.	6.25%	.6%	--	1.5%

Note. Figures quoted in F. and G. are based on a depleted product of a 1d. rate due to a rate refund to the N.W. Gas Board during the financial year.

